

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REPRESENTATION ON CUBA'S ROLE IN THE
HORN

1. DURING OVERALL DISCUSSION OF NAM ACTIVITIES APRIL 27,
POLOFF RAISED QUESTION OF CUBA'S ROLE IN HORN WITH DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION, MFA, NAJDI
JAZZAR. POLOFF POINTED OUT THAT RAISING ISSUE AT THIS LEVEL
WAS INTENDED TO INDICATE THAT USG, ALTHOUGH SERIOUSLY CONCERNED
BY SITUATION, IS NOT TRYING TO INTERVENE IN NAM
CONSULTATIONS. POLOFF DREW FROM TALKING POINTS
REFTEL TO EMPHASIZE USG BELIEF THAT CUBAN ACTIVITIES
DID NOT APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH NAM PRINCIPLES AND TO EXPRESS
HOPE THAT SYRIA SPECIFICALLY AND NAM IN GENERAL WOULD SHARE
OUR CONCERN AND MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

2. JAZZAR SAID THAT THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS ALL OTHER NAM
ISSUES WERE REVIEWED WITH CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN
HE WAS IN SYRIA APRIL 15. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS ARE AN ANNUAL AFFAIR TO COORDINATE NAM POSITIONS.
IT IS NO SECRET, JAZZAR SAID, THAT SYRIA DISAGREED WITH CUBA
OVER ITS INTERVENTION IN THE OGADEN. DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT
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WERE INTENSE AND AT TIMES DIFFICULT. CUBANS EXPLAINED
THEIR POSITION IN TERMS OF REQUEST BY ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
FOR ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT FRATERNAL SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.
SYRIA, ACCORDING TO JAZZAR, DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH.
NEVERTHELESS, SYRIA HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND SEEKS
TO IMPROVE THEM. SINCE BASIC QUESTION OF OGADEN APPEARED
RESOLVED FOR NOW, JAZZAR SAID, SYRIA DID NOT PRESS THIS MATTER.

3. JAZZAR SAID HE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE HORN BECOMING AN ISSUE IN KABUL. HOWEVER, THIS WAS PREDICATED ON A CUBAN PLEDGE NOT TO INTERVENE IN THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. CUBAN DEPFONMIN SAID CUBA'S PRESENCE RELATED SOLELY TO OGADEN AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ERITREA. JAZZAR SAID SARG EXPECTED CUBA TO STAND BY THIS PLEDGE. FIRST REPORTS OF SPEECH BY CASTRO IN LAST FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS CONCERN IN MFA. CASTRO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CUBAN WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST ETHIOPIA IN ERITREA. PRESIDENT ASSAD WOULD TAKE VERY FIRM STAND IF THIS WAS SO, CONSISTENT WITH SYRIA'S LONG TERM POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS. JAZZAR CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ERITREA AND THEREFORE DID NOT EXPECT ISSUE TO BE RAISED IN KABUL. PELLETTREAU

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